



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes, Dec. 1, 2010

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Minutes of December 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes amended/approved Jan.5, 2011

In attendance: Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpati, Patsy Kraemer, Ann LeRoy, David White; John Chamberlain.

Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

- The **minutes** of the November meeting were accepted with some corrections.
- John Chamberlain, an interested citizen, came to ask if Arlington could write an official letter to Lexington stating Arlington's concerns about the future of the **Busa Farm** and the values we would like to see preserved there. The Arlington Conservation Commission will write such a letter. Mr. Chamberlain plans to attend the meetings held in Lexington on the future of Busa Farm. There are three proposals at present; the committee considering them is to report to the Lexington Selectmen on January 15, 2011.
- **Elizabeth Island:** The campaign was successful in raising enough money from over 400 donors to buy the island, with a little left over to start a stewardship fund. The closing is scheduled to take place on December 9.
- Establishing the conservation restriction will take some more legal steps and then it will have to be approved by the state. A stewardship committee will have to be established and volunteers recruited. Mass. Audubon will help to write a management plan.
- The success of the campaign will be celebrated at the **Arlington Land Trust's annual meeting** on Friday, January 28, 2011, 7 - 9 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge on Academy Street.
- The **Mill Brook** working group will meet on December 9.
- **Brigham's:** The developer seems willing to cooperate in the design of improvements in the pocket park, though it is not part of the development property. The park is under the jurisdiction of the School Department, but it would be more logical under Park & Rec. The Open Space Committee sent a letter with its input on this project in the summer; Ann will re-send it, with a new cover letter, to make sure our input is not lost.
- The **Thompson School** will be rebuilt on the same site, rather than changing places with the playground.
- NEGEF has given a grant to build a **rain garden** in a wet spot on Magnolia Field. It will be built next year.
- The **EcoFest** on March 26, 2011 (unfortunately the same date as the state Land Trust conference) will focus on "how you affect the water that affects you." The Con Com and Open Space Committee will be among the co-sponsors.
- **Review of Open Space Plan 2008-2014, Chapter 9, Goals and Objectives:**
 - 1-1. Joey has done a list of buildable lots which had access. There has been a controversial development on Washington Street on a lot which had no access and therefore escaped the "watch list" but the developer created access under rules which have since been changed.
 - 1-2. Success on Elizabeth Island; Mugar property yet to be protected.
 - 1-3. On hold until the Symmes project has a developer.
 - 2-a-1. Management plans for these areas are done, with some updates.
 - 2-a-2. Additional management plans to be done, in 2011 if possible.
 - 2-a-3,4. Great Meadows protection is on hold.
 - 2-a-5,6. Habitat garden with public access being planned between the Res and Mill Brook.
 - 2-a-7. Mill Brook Linear Park: report done, more details being planned.
 - 2-a-8. Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford have applied for Recreation and Trails grants for adding amenities (signs, etc.) to the Bikeway; expect to get answers in June.
 - 2-a-11. Try to encourage planting not one but two trees for every one removed, and get them watered.
 - 2-a 12. Phragmites control project in progress at Spy Pond.
- Review to be continued at next meeting, starting with section 2-b.

Submitted by E. Karpati

